

Thomas K. Maloney  
421 Blackstone Village  
Meriden, CT 06450-2409  
(203) 238-3923  
tkwm57@gmail.com

Testimony in Support of the  
Connecticut Home Care Program for the Disabled  
Appropriations Committee Hearing – February 14, 2014

My name is Thomas Maloney. I reside in Meriden, CT. I would like to thank you Senator Bye, Representative Abercrombie and Members of the Appropriations Committee, the General Assembly and Governor Malloy for the funding and long standing support of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities. I request that the Appropriations Committee provide funding for an additional 50 slots for this Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities (CHCPAD).

CHCPAD is Connecticut's only home care program with care management for adults between the ages of 19-64 who have degenerative neurological diseases. The program currently has a waiting list of over 100 people. The average yearly cost of home care for individuals on the program is \$16,000 compared to a cost of \$72,000 per year if the individual were to be on Medicaid and living in a nursing home. SAVINGS: \$56,000 per person per year for a total of over \$2.8 million annually.

The program helps to keep younger people at home and out of nursing homes. It provides services including home health care, home delivered meals, adult day care, homemaker services and care management..

In 2004 I was hospitalized due to an incident that occurred in my building. While teaching, the building was undergoing renovation and the roof was being replaced. During the course of the renovation I was taken to the ER on 5 separate occasions with the 5th being the worst of all. I then spent a week in the hospital followed by 4 weeks of intense physical rehabilitation at the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain. Upon discharge from HFSC I was sent home where I received care from visiting nurses and physical therapists as well as occupational therapists who helped me with my recovery. I now know that I am allergic to MOLD! Due to this hospitalization I lost the use of my legs to walk and drive a motor vehicle. With the help from BRS I was able to make the necessary adjustment to my home and my vehicle so I could continue to be productive in the workforce. In March of 2008 I had another exacerbation related to the state of the building and my lowered immune system. I was in the hospital for over a week and then again at HFSC. My diagnosis was pretty dire. I did not know if I was ever going to walk again. The doctors, physical therapists, occupational therapists and others were essential to my recuperation. Again, upon my release from the HFSC I received the regimen that I had with my first hospitalization. That time it took me months to recover with daily test of endurance and will learning how to do what was on a simple thing as getting dressed and putting on socks and shoes. The assistance I received was invaluable. The home care was truly amazing. And I believe that if it were not for the focused concentration of the doctors and therapists my recoveries would not have been as successful. Both occasions were covered under my insurance through my employer when I was teaching. Now, several years later, I have had 5 hospitalizations and three extended recoveries at healthcare facilities with the most recent one being from 12-22-13 to 1-23-14. My medicare covers 80% and the rest is up to me. I am now wiped out financially with No savings (due to medical bills and necessary \$4125.00 repairs to my modified accessible van. My current insurance does not cover home care so if a situation

like the previous ones occurs again I do not know what I will do!

Although my home is adapted, as best as possible, for my needs, it is still difficult to do daily chores. I need assistance with some cooking, laundry and home care. I can handle my personal care. I know many others, like me, have similar problems in their daily lives who are just trying to get through the day. Home care is crucial for the needs of many whom have physically debilitating diseases, but who can still contribute to our cities, towns and State in our workforce with assistive technology and modifications made for them.

Programs like the Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities (CHCPAD) which provides care, coordination, home care and support for 41 people in CT between the ages of 18 to 64. The participants in the program are individuals who are living with degenerative neurological disabilities who are not eligible for other programs. I am not a participant in the program, but urge you to keep the program in the budget..

The people on this program are young and have families. This program is helping to keep families together. They are able to spend more time focusing on raising their families and less time focusing on managing their care.

Please continue funding this program. For all of those on the program, we are just one medical crisis away from going to a nursing home. This program is helping them remain independent.

Thank you,

Thomas K. Maloney